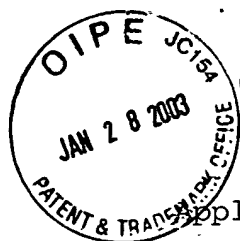


2813



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

PATENT

#7/B

Applicant: Yu-Chi Sun et al.

Group Art No.: 2813

Application No: 10/016,896

Examiner: Nguyen, Thanh T.

Filed: December 13, 2001

Re: RESPONSE

For: "A METHOD OF FORMING A SELF-
ALIGNED CONTACT HOLE"

Our Ref: B-4418 619378-8

Date: January 22, 2003

Honorable Commissioner of Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

This paper is filed in response to the Official Action dated October 23, 2002. Please enter the following amendments and remarks into the prosecution history of the subject application without prejudice. The amendments made herein are for purposes of clarity only.

In the Claims

Currently pending Claims 1-15 have been reformatted as set forth in the enclosed Appendix A. (Appendix B, which is enclosed herewith, shows how currently pending Claims 1-15 were amended to produce amended Claims 1-15 in Appendix A. In Appendix B, the portions being deleted are enclosed in brackets).

RECEIVED
JAN 29 2003
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800

BEST AVAILABLE COPY